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# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# India

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-seventh session from 1 to 12 May 2017. The review of India was held at the 8th meeting, on 4 May 2017. The delegation of India was headed by the Attorney General, Mukul Rohatgi. At its 14th meeting, held on 9 May 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on India.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of India: Latvia, the Philippines and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of India:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/IND/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/IND/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/IND/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to India through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

# I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

## A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of India stated that India remained convinced of the effectiveness of the universal periodic review process, and reiterated its commitment to meaningful engagement with international organizations and other States in a spirit of reciprocity, with a common desire for a better world. India continued with its endeavours towards observance of human rights. When drafting its national report, India had followed a broad-based consultative approach involving various stakeholders.

6. For India, poverty eradication and achieving inclusive sustainable development were utmost priorities. In that regard, major initiatives had been undertaken, including Smart Cities, Make in India, Celebrate the Girl Child and Enable her Education, Bank Accounts for All, and Startup India, which mirrored the targets of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

7. An important plank of the country's development agenda, as well as of its push towards good governance and the creation of a knowledge society, had reportedly been the Digital India programme, which aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society.

8. The coverage of the Aadhaar Unique Identification Number had been widened to prevent leakages and to ensure targeted delivery of scheme benefits. To further institutionalize the project, the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 had been enacted. Over a billion Aadhaar cards had reportedly been issued to date.

9. India had taken various steps to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, including child malnutrition, notably through the adoption of the National Food Security Act, 2013 and the

expansion of the coverage of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme for better nutrition, health and overall development for children under the age of 6.

10. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was the flagship employment programme in India. It was an entitlement-based scheme covering the entire country; women had been the beneficiaries of nearly 60 per cent of the total work days created under the Scheme. Young people were the main beneficiaries of the Skill India Initiative.

11. India had prioritized inclusive and quality education for all by supporting various programmes and policies to universalize educational opportunities, with special emphasis on the girl child.

12. India had been making efforts to evaluate the level of compliance with labour laws through a unified labour and employment web portal, through which employers were required to file returns giving details of their compliance with labour laws. In addition, a law had been enacted requiring employers to provide effective redress to women who had been victims of sexual harassment.

13. In all its policies, India had sought to ensure inclusive development and the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups. To that end, the National Policy for Children 2013 had put in place a rights-based policy framework to address children's needs.

14. India was deeply committed to reinforcing and accelerating efforts to combat human trafficking. In that context, the Government was in advanced consultations with stakeholders on an anti-human trafficking bill to comprehensively address issues relating to human trafficking.

15. In April 2014, the Supreme Court had handed down a landmark judgment directing the Government to declare transgender persons as pertaining to a "third gender" and to include them in the category of an "Other Backward Class", which would entitle them to affirmative action benefits. The Court had also reinforced the point that they should have all rights under the law.

16. India had made significant progress in addressing the special needs of persons with disabilities through the Accessible India Campaign, and by overhauling the legislative framework on the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with mental health issues.

17. India had also amended its laws to provide more stringent punishment for atrocities against persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. In addition, a range of policy measures had been adopted to address issues of social exclusion, deprivation and disadvantage that such groups might face.

18. India had remained alert to the problem of global warming and the need to factor in environmental sustainability in its development policies. For instance, the Government had articulated its belief in taking an ethical and people-centred approach to climate change by espousing the principles of climate justice.

19. The delegation also referred to the country's constitutional framework for the protection of civil liberties and its commitment to safeguarding fundamental rights and fulfilling the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution.

20. The independent judiciary, the autonomous human rights commissions at both the national and State levels, the media and civil society all ensured that the authorities remained respectful of constitutional and human rights norms.

21. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act had been applied only to disturbed areas to deal with exigent circumstances like terrorism. The Supreme Court had upheld the constitutionality of the Act and laid down strict guidelines, including that the armed forces could not use excessive force under the Act.

22. India was committed to ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In that context, the Government had requested the Law Commission of India to prepare a comprehensive report covering all aspects of criminal law so that the necessary amendments could be made in the Penal Code,

the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Evidence Act, prior to carrying out the ratification process.

23. Concerning extrajudicial executions, the Supreme Court issued extensive guidelines for effective and independent investigations, and the judiciary monitored investigations in specific cases.

24. In order to address the large backlog of cases that often resulted in delays in their closure, the Law Commission's recommendations on institutional changes to facilitate timely justice were being considered by the Government and the Supreme Court.

25. Safeguarding the rights of minorities formed an essential core of the polity of India, and the State made no distinction between a citizen's caste, creed, colour or religion.

26. The delegation stressed that the right to free speech and expression were at the core of the Indian Constitution and that people were conscious of their political freedoms and exercised their choices at every opportunity.

## B. Interactive dialogue

27. During the interactive dialogue, 103 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

28. Germany welcomed efforts to address poverty, including the issue of corruption, but was concerned about the social hardship endured by marginalized groups and about restrictions on civil society.

29. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended India for its efforts aiming to combat trafficking and poverty, promote the economic empowerment of women and provide social assistance to older persons, widows and persons with disabilities.

30. Greece welcomed efforts aiming at poverty eradication, creating an inclusive knowledge society and improving equal access to justice for all.

31. Guatemala was concerned about reports of discrimination against scheduled castes, women and religious minorities.

32. The Holy See made several recommendations.

33. Ghana urged India to finalize its ratification of the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol thereto.

34. Iceland commended India for the steps it had taken to combat violence against women, but regretted that violence persisted and women faced barriers to accessing justice.

35. Indonesia supported the efforts to provide continuous training for law enforcement officers and to raise their awareness of the need to respect human rights while performing their tasks.

36. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the allocation of increased resources for the enjoyment of economic and social rights.

37. Iraq commended the increase in health expenditure and the health insurance plans for families living under the poverty line.

38. Spain welcomed the debate on the need to combat child labour and child marriage.

39. Israel commended India for enacting the 2005 Right to Information Act, launching the Digital India programme and setting up anti-human trafficking units.

40. Italy commended efforts towards socioeconomic development and poverty eradication, and steps taken to favour access to justice and fight human trafficking.

41. Japan welcomed the commitment of India to reforming its legal system with a view to protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls.

42. Kazakhstan highlighted the policies India had adopted to address health, education, housing, poverty alleviation, food and social security.

43. Kenya commended India for its continued efforts to increase the protection and promotion of human rights.

44. Kyrgyzstan backed the efforts of India, inter alia, to empower women and eradicate discrimination against them.

45. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended India for its socioeconomic policies to address people's needs.

46. Latvia encouraged India to continue its efforts to improve the protection of women against violence, particularly in rural areas, and to enhance women's political participation.

47. Lebanon commended the policies to promote freedom of expression and religion, strategies for poverty alleviation and the efforts to fight against human trafficking.

48. Libya commended the harmonization of development policies with the Sustainable Development Goals to make progress in the health and education sectors.

49. Liechtenstein made recommendations.

50. Lithuania commended India for reforming the Penal Code regarding the crimes of rape and sexual assault.

51. Madagascar welcomed progress regarding the promotion of food and health security and the willingness to intensify human rights training for security officials.

52. Malaysia viewed positively various development programmes to assist citizens to pursue upward socioeconomic mobility, such as the Stand-Up India scheme.

53. Maldives commended India for its continuous efforts to make education accessible to all children under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act.

54. Mauritius lauded India for its efforts and actions aiming at poverty alleviation, food security, access to safe water, education, health and housing rights.

55. Mexico acknowledged the progress India had made since the previous cycle, particularly its cooperation with special procedures and its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

56. Montenegro noted positive steps regarding the use of capital punishment, such as the Supreme Court decision to commute 15 death sentences to life imprisonment.

57. Mozambique commended India for the strides made towards socioeconomic development and poverty eradication.

58. Myanmar applauded India for its legislative, institutional and policy initiatives to promote and protect human rights and achieve socioeconomic development.

59. Namibia applauded the efforts of India to implement the recommendations from its previous review and its standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders.

60. Nepal commended the measures aimed at improving the welfare of the marginalized population and the socioeconomic policies addressing people's basic needs.

61. The Netherlands welcomed the steps taken to protect the rights of women and to enhance compensation to victims of communal violence.

62. Norway commended India for adopting the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act and ratifying the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), as had been recommended during the previous review.

63. The delegation of India stated that many specific laws existed to address violence against women and to bring perpetrators to justice, such as the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The draft National Policy for Women aimed at further strengthening the entire architecture to address violence against women.

64. India did not discriminate against girls in terms of the right to education. Girls were actively encouraged to attend school and great emphasis was put on girls' enrolment. There had been encouraging results in terms of girls' retention in school, and the dropout rate for girls in middle school and beyond had fallen.

65. In addition to the anti-human trafficking bill, India had ratified several international human rights instruments pertaining to human trafficking.

66. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act prohibited acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest. Any violation of the Act was a cognizable offence.

67. In addition to the commitment of India to ratifying the Convention against Torture, there were sufficient provisions in the domestic legal framework that prohibited torture, and the Supreme Court had laid down specific rules and guidelines that the police must follow when making arrests.

68. India was a secular country and every citizen had the right to practice and promote his or her religion peacefully. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, the National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for Minorities investigated cases related to discrimination, including religious discrimination.

69. The Government had introduced the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016, which provided for, inter alia, non-discrimination against transgender persons and the formation of a national council for transgender persons.

70. Consensual sexual acts conducted in private by adults of the same sex, which were criminalized under section 377 of the Penal Code, had been decriminalized by a High Court judgment. The judgment had later been overturned by the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court had agreed to re-examine the issue.

71. The Government's guidelines on communal harmony established the preventive and administrative measures to be taken to maintain communal harmony and the standard operating procedures to deal with situations of communal violence.

72. Oman appreciated the measures to improve the situation of women and persons with disabilities and the National Initiative on Care for the Elderly.

73. Pakistan made recommendations.

74. Peru highlighted the adhesion of India to the principles of climate justice and the progress made against serious diseases.

75. The Philippines lauded the efforts to eradicate poverty and to prioritize renewable energy for cleaner air in cities.

76. Portugal noted the amendment to criminalize rape and gang rape, while regretting that marital rape fell outside the scope of the amendment.

77. Qatar appreciated the efforts to implement the previous review recommendations regarding sustainable development, which had had a positive impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

78. The Republic of Korea welcomed the "Save the Girl, Educate the Girl" campaign and efforts to eradicate poverty.

79. The Russian Federation welcomed, inter alia, the establishment of human rights training for law enforcement officers.

80. Rwanda encouraged India to enhance its efforts to combat racial discrimination and discriminatory practices against women.

81. Saudi Arabia commended the positive achievements made in the field of human rights and the efforts to implement accepted recommendations.

82. Senegal commended India for its government-wide approach to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and its Housing for All programme.

83. Sierra Leone was concerned about incidents of sexual violence against women and urged India to intensify its efforts to address them.

84. Singapore commended India for its success in halving the number of rural households without a drinking water supply.

85. Slovakia recognized actions taken by India to completely ban the employment of children under the age of 14.

86. Slovenia expressed concern about the negative consequences of the relaxation of the standards for environmental impact assessments.

87. South Africa welcomed the provision of the smart card-based cashless health insurance cover to families in poverty and workers in the informal sector.

88. Ireland urged India to review the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act and pay special attention to human rights defenders working on minority and children's rights.

89. The State of Palestine commended India for its commitment to addressing climate change by pushing for strong domestic climate action for a more sustainable development pathway.

90. The Sudan appreciated the recent legislative and institutional developments, especially the enactment of the anti-corruption law in 2013.

91. Sweden wished India every success in promoting an inclusive society where everyone's rights were equally respected.

92. Switzerland expressed concern about the increasing restrictions imposed on independent civil society actors, including those belonging to religious minorities.

93. Thailand welcomed the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act and the implementation of the National Child Labour Policy and the Accessible India Campaign.

94. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the 2014 Supreme Court decision to commute to life imprisonment the death sentences of 15 individuals.

95. Turkey encouraged India to strengthen the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission to allow it to address a greater variety of human rights issues.

96. Uganda commended India for attaching utmost priority to poverty eradication and achieving inclusive sustainable development.

97. Ukraine encouraged India to reconsider pending requests from OHCHR and a number of special procedure mandate holders.

98. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the fact that the Indian courts had considered the right to a clean environment to be a human right.

99. The United Kingdom requested that India provide an update on the steps taken to address the remaining challenges concerning women's and girls' rights.

100. The United States of America noted the lack of transparency and uneven application of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, which impeded the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

101. The delegation of India stated that the Government aimed to reserve one third of the seats in the lower house of Parliament and the state legislative assemblies for women. There were currently 1.4 million directly elected women representatives. Women's digital literacy and financial inclusion were at the top of the Government's agenda.

102. India was committed to ensuring better health and well-being for its entire population through its National Health Policy. Improvements in institutional deliveries had reached 79 per cent in 2015-2016, from 29 per cent in 1992-1993. The infant mortality rate had dropped from 57 per 1,000 live births in 2005-2006 to 41 per 1,000 live births in 2015-2016.

103. The Law Commission of India had not recommended the criminalization of marital rape in 2000. After a commission had handed down an opinion favouring that course of action, the Government had requested the Law Commission to deliberate upon the subject during its comprehensive review of the criminal justice system.

104. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 had been amended with effect from January 2016, providing for the establishment of special courts for the speedy trial of cases.

105. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 had been enacted in December 2016 and brought into force in April 2017. It contained special provisions on the rights of women with disabilities and on inclusive education for children with disabilities. The Accessible India Campaign had been launched in order to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities.

106. The Government had launched the Swacha Bharat Mission in order to accelerate efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage, improve cleanliness and eliminate open defecation by 2019. Similarly, the Government was implementing the National Rural Drinking Water Programme and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation to ensure water supply to households in rural and urban areas.

107. Referring to the current security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the high number of casualties sustained by Indian security forces, the delegation stressed the zero-tolerance policy on terrorism and the active, constructive role played by several stakeholders in that region.

108. The death penalty was exercised in the "rarest of rare" cases, when the crime committed was so heinous that it shocked the conscience of society. Furthermore, Indian law provided for all requisite procedural safeguards, for suspension of the death penalty for pregnant women, and for prohibition of executions of persons with mental or intellectual disabilities and juvenile offenders.

109. Uruguay welcomed the draft law for the protection, well-being and social security of domestic workers.

110. Uzbekistan appreciated the efforts of India to eradicate poverty and protect vulnerable groups in society.

111. Honduras noted the advances in poverty reduction, but was concerned about the high incidence of violence against children, especially girls.

112. Viet Nam commended India for its achievements in, inter alia, access for all to quality education, eradicating poverty and protecting vulnerable groups.

113. Yemen commended the efforts to realize development and eradicate poverty, which were reflected in sustainable development plans and the poverty alleviation strategies.

114. Zambia noted with satisfaction the efforts of India in, inter alia, poverty eradication and achieving inclusive sustainable development.

115. Zimbabwe noted the socioeconomic policies of India to address people's basic needs.

116. Algeria welcomed the launch of the Digital India programme, aiming, inter alia, at increasing connectivity and access to knowledge.

117. Angola raised concerns about increased cases of violence and sexual harassment against women, and of child labour.

118. Argentina welcomed the inauguration of the Stand-Up India scheme.

119. Australia was concerned that certain legislative instruments, including the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, might overly restrict the activities of civil society.

120. Bahrain appreciated the efforts made in the area of economic and social rights and noted challenges faced by women and children.

121. Bangladesh praised India for its socioeconomic development, including its measures for poverty eradication, improving nutrition, removing the urban-rural divide and addressing the sanitation and safe drinking water needs of its people.

122. Belarus welcomed the cooperation of India with international human rights mechanisms, including recent visits by Special Rapporteurs.

123. Belgium, while welcoming efforts to address violence and discrimination against women, stated that further progress could be achieved in that area.

124. Bhutan appreciated measures such as the Stand-Up India scheme, reforms to reduce delays in the judicial system and the steps taken to enhance the equality and empowerment of women.

125. The Plurinational State of Bolivia highlighted policies to improve living conditions in rural areas, especially with regard to water and sanitation.

126. Botswana noted that the socioeconomic development agenda of India was aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and welcomed the focus on poverty eradication.

127. Brazil welcomed the commitment of India to poverty eradication and its initiatives in the field of health.

128. Brunei Darussalam noted that the Constitution of India guaranteed an individual's right to a clean environment.

129. Bulgaria noted the importance of the National Human Rights Commission and called for the extension of its mandate.

130. The delegation of India stated that the Government had mapped out all the central ministries, national missions and centrally supported development programmes regarding each specific Sustainable Development Goal, and national consultations on all the goals had been held, with broad participation of various stakeholders.

131. In order to address the agrarian crisis, India planned to develop a sense of income security by aiming for optimal utilization of water resources, conservation of soil fertility with balanced use of fertilizers and provision of connectivity between farms and markets.

132. The Government was committed to ensuring a safe working environment for all, including those engaged in promoting and protecting human rights, while stressing that human rights defenders' activities should comply with the domestic legal framework.

133. The right to housing remained a priority for the Government. It had launched the Housing for All by 2022 programme to provide better and affordable housing facilities to the rural poor, urban slum dwellers and other economically weaker sections of the society, including minorities.

134. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 had vested the forest rights and occupation of forest land to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

135. India was committed to eradicating child labour. It had addressed the phenomenon through a multipronged strategy, which included the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, prohibiting the employment of children below 14 years of age in any occupation, except after school work and when assisting in family enterprises.

136. Several legislative and policy measures had been taken to promote social, economic and emotional security for the elderly. In 2017, the Government had launched the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, a scheme for providing physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens.

137. Burkina Faso requested further information on the establishment of the crisis centres providing victims of sexual violence with legal aid.

138. Canada welcomed efforts to strengthen justice for victims of sexual assault, and commended the Supreme Court of India for its recognition of transgender persons.

139. Chad welcomed the inclusive consultation process in the preparation of the national report and the cooperation of India with United Nations treaty bodies.

140. Chile wished to know whether specific measures existed to address violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or sexual identity.

141. China noted the measures taken to fight corruption and reduce the backlog in court cases, and international cooperation to prevent human trafficking.

142. Colombia highlighted the Stand-Up India and Housing for All programmes and human rights training for law enforcement officials.

143. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged India to continue its actions regarding, inter alia, freedom of expression, gender equality and socioeconomic development.

144. Cuba welcomed the new legislation in the fields of persons with disabilities and child labour and the new policy on primary education.

145. Czechia encouraged a positive response to the report of the Law Commission of India recommending the abolition of the death penalty.

146. Denmark welcomed the acceptance of the recommendations from the previous review to ratify the Convention against Torture.

147. Egypt appreciated the culture of transparency, openness and accountability in the governmental functioning, as enacted in the Right to Information Act.

148. Estonia welcomed the efforts of India to improve access to financial services and pensions for economically marginalized persons.

149. Ethiopia noted progress in implementing the review recommendations relating to environmental policies.

150. Finland commended the adoption of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in 2016.

151. France encouraged India to respect international standards during law enforcement operations, and the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.

152. Gabon welcomed efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against women and to combat violence against, and exploitation of, children.

153. Sri Lanka requested India to elaborate on best practices and practical measures taken to encourage citizens to exercise their right to information.

154. Haiti noted the great focus on reducing poverty, especially extreme poverty, and increasing access to quality education.

155. The delegation of India stated that, in order to address child sexual abuse, a law had been enacted providing for child-friendly mechanisms for reporting a crime, recording of evidence, investigation, speedy trial of offences and in-camera trials through designated special courts.

156. Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, giving a child into marriage was considered as cruelty and any child in that situation would be treated as a child in need of care and protection. District child protection units registered cases involving forced child marriage that had resulted in pregnancy.

157. The potential of reproductive and sexual health education was recognized by India and the Government had invested in partnerships to create and strengthen opportunities for young people.

158. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act had been used only in exceptional circumstances, and several checks and balances had been introduced to ensure that there were strict guidelines for the armed forces and for monitoring alleged human rights violations by such forces.

159. Regarding recent incidents relating to members of the African community, the delegation stated that the Minister of External Affairs personally monitored the situation

and had requested the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to have the case investigated on a fast-track basis.

160. The delegation of India concluded by reiterating its commitment to leave no one behind and to ensure that all the policies and schemes in place reached the bottom of the pyramid.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

161. **The following recommendations will be examined by India, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council:**

161.1 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);**

161.2 **Consider adhering to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and abolish the death penalty (Portugal);**

161.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);**

161.4 **Consider withdrawing the remaining declarations and reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Rwanda);**

161.5 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously recommended (Botswana);**

161.6 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment urgently and in accordance with its commitments from the 2012 universal periodic review (Norway);**

161.7 **Ratify, before the next universal periodic review cycle, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czechia);**

161.8 **Finalize the efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as other international instruments, as recommended by relevant treaty bodies (Bulgaria);**

161.9 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Greece) (Guatemala) (Italy) (Lebanon) (Montenegro) (Mozambique) (South Africa) (Sweden) (Turkey) (Ukraine) (United States of America);**

161.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);**

161.11 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and ensure that the instrument of ratification is consistent with the Convention (Australia);**

161.12 **Swiftly ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, ensure that domestic legislation defines torture in line with international**

**standards, and extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment for an official visit to the country (Germany);**

161.13 **Proceed with early ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);**

161.14 **Ratify the Convention against Torture as soon as possible and further, ratify the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization and the Optional Protocols to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and abolish the death penalty as recommended by the Law Commission of India (Ireland);**

161.15 **Finalize the process of ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Kazakhstan);**

161.16 **Redouble its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Republic of Korea);**

161.17 **Speed up the process for the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Israel);**

161.18 **Advance towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

161.19 **Consider completing the process of ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Burkina Faso);**

161.20 **Complete the process of preparation for the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Russian Federation);**

161.21 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

161.22 **Strengthen national efforts towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);**

161.23 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol and swiftly move ahead with the Prevention of Torture Bill (Estonia);**

161.24 **Enact the Prevention of Torture Bill currently pending in the parliament in compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Turkey);**

161.25 **Adopt the draft law on the prevention of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by complying with established international norms (Madagascar);**

161.26 **Adopt the draft law on the prevention of torture and ensure that it complies with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal);**

161.27 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);**

161.28 **Promptly ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Guatemala);**

161.29 **Expedite efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);**

161.30 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Greece) (Ukraine);**

161.31 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Burkina Faso);**

161.32 **Accede to and implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to end statelessness and guarantee nationality for affected children (Kenya);**

161.33 **Accede to and fully implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Slovakia);**

161.34 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

161.35 **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**

161.36 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay);**

161.37 **Develop a national strategy to tackle exploitative labour practices and to ratify the ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, and continue to strengthen protections for children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.38 **Ratify the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization (Slovenia);**

161.39 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Uruguay);**

161.40 **Consider acceding to the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) (Uruguay);**

161.41 **Ratify the international conventions to which it has committed itself (Madagascar);**

161.42 **Ratify other human rights conventions to which India is not yet a State party (Philippines);**

161.43 **Ratify the international human rights instruments to which India is not a State party yet (Côte d'Ivoire);**

161.44 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.45 **Respond positively to visit requests by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**

161.46 **Put in place a specific mechanism for implementing previous accepted recommendations (Uganda);**

161.47 **Request all necessary technical assistance enabling the Government to meet its international commitments (Côte d'Ivoire);**

161.48 **Accede to and adapt its national legislation to the Rome Statute, including incorporation of dispositions to swiftly and fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

161.49 **Bring into law the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence bill (2013) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.50 **Accede to and adapt its national legislation to the Arms Trade Treaty (Guatemala);**

161.51 **Criminalize marital rape (Portugal) (Sweden);**

161.52 **Include a provision in its Penal Code criminalizing marital rape (Australia);**

161.53 **Remove the exception relating to marital rape from the definition of rape in the Indian Penal Code and criminalize "honour crimes" (Slovenia);**

161.54 **Remove the exception relating to marital rape from the definition of rape in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (Belgium) (Iceland);**

161.55 **Consider removing the exception relating to marital rape from the definition of rape in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (Namibia);**

161.56 **Remove the exception of marital rape from the definition of rape in article 375 of the Penal Code, in line with the efforts already undertaken for the protection of women (France);**

161.57 **Criminalize all forms of sexual abuse of girls under 18 years of age, including marital rape and "honour crimes" (Zambia);**

161.58 **Take additional steps in criminalizing marital rape (Lithuania);**

161.59 **Consider introducing laws to specifically prevent and prosecute "honour" killings and prosecute those that order or sanction violence against women (Namibia);**

161.60 **Continue efforts to eradicate child and forced marriage (Peru);**

161.61 **Continues its endeavours in promoting and protecting the human rights of all its citizens in an inclusive manner (Nepal);**

161.62 **Adopt a national plan on human rights (Kenya);**

161.63 **Expand the scope of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act and promote human rights education in the school curriculum (Slovakia);**

161.64 **Include human rights education in the draft new education policy (Zambia);**

161.65 **Continue and step up national efforts to train and guide security staff and other law enforcement officials in the field of human rights (Egypt);**

161.66 **In the spirit of its Constitution, which guarantees equal rights to all minorities, further invest in dedicated human rights training of police officials to register and investigate cases of discrimination and violence and to hold them accountable when they fail to do so (Finland);**

161.67 **Provide systematic training on women's rights to all law enforcement personnel, medical staff and judicial officials (Belgium);**

161.68 **Strengthen capacity-building with regard to human rights for civil servants involved in the protection of women and girl and boy victims of violence and sexual abuse (Mexico);**

161.69 **Adopt a comprehensive national plan on inclusion in order to combat persisting inequality, paying particular attention to persons in vulnerable situations such as women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities (Honduras);**

161.70 **Strengthen the national framework to reduce all kinds of discrimination (Iraq);**

161.71 **Intensify efforts to guarantee equality and non-discrimination in line with its international obligations by developing public human rights awareness programmes and taking concrete steps to advance the rights of women and girls, members of religious minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to combat caste-based discrimination, including to: criminalize marital rape; decriminalize consensual same-sex relations; and establish appropriate policies and practices for registering, investigating and prosecuting violence against women, girls and members of religious minorities (Ireland);**

161.72 **Ensure that laws are fully and consistently enforced to provide adequate protections for members of religious minorities, scheduled castes, tribes and other vulnerable populations (United States of America);**

161.73 **Take effective measures to combat rising instances of religious intolerance, violence and discrimination (Kazakhstan);**

161.74 **Enact the Prevention of Torture Bill (South Africa);**

161.75 **Adopt laws and implement policies to supress all forms of de facto discrimination against any person or group (Guatemala);**

161.76 **Repeal section 377 of the Indian Penal Code and ensure that consensual same-sex relations are not criminalized (Iceland);**

161.77 **Take steps to end the criminalization of same-sex relations (Israel);**

161.78 **Amend or revoke section 377 to decriminalize same-sex relations (Norway);**

161.79 **Repeal section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalizes same-sex conduct between consenting adults, and enact legislation consistent with the Supreme Court's recognition of the rights of transgender persons (Canada);**

161.80 **Adopt measures to effectively protect transgender persons, including the implementation of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill (Israel);**

161.81 **Continue the fight against discrimination, exclusion, dehumanization, stigmatization and violence suffered by scheduled castes (Peru);**

161.82 **Take urgent measures to repeal the norms that discriminate against castes, and investigate and sanction the perpetrators of acts of discrimination and violence against them, in particular against the Dalits (Argentina);**

161.83 **Take the necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, notably through the training of State officials (France);**

161.84 **Establish a national action plan for combating hate crimes, racism and negative stereotypes against people of African descent inside its territory, including appropriate programmes of public awareness that will address the**

problem of racism and Afro-phobia, in full consultation with those particularly affected (Haiti);

161.85 Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and in the improvement of human development indicators (Islamic Republic of Iran);

161.86 Continue efforts in the implementation of sustainable development strategies for the year 2030 (Sudan);

161.87 Allocate adequate resources to realize the Sustainable Development Goal targets to reduce maternal mortality and end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 (Norway);

161.88 Continue facilitating equal access to justice for all and provide legal aid, in particular to vulnerable groups, minority groups and marginalized people (Angola);

161.89 Further promote equal access to justice for all, especially by providing more legal aid to the poor and marginalized (Ethiopia);

161.90 Establish and implement regulations to ensure that the business sector complies with international and national human rights, labour, environment and other standards (Uganda);

161.91 Continue its efforts in relation to its environmental policies (State of Palestine);

161.92 Provide access to clean and modern energy to all its people and develop climate-friendly green cities (United Arab Emirates);

161.93 Continue implementing its international commitments to achieve its nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement of 2015 (United Arab Emirates);

161.94 Continue its efforts to effectively enforce its environmental policies and further increase the growth of forest cover in the country (Brunei Darussalam);

161.95 Take appropriate measures to avoid the excessive use of force by security officers (Greece);

161.96 Deepen the respect about principles of proportionality and necessity for armed forces and police (Peru);

161.97 Revise the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act to bring it into compliance with the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to fighting impunity (Switzerland);

161.98 Review the Code of Criminal Procedure as regards the use of force by law enforcement officials, in particular section 46 (Sierra Leone);

161.99 Prevent and pursue through the appropriate judicial means all violent acts against religious and tribal minorities, Dalits and lower castes (Holy See);

161.100 Strengthen efforts for the prevention of cases of intercommunal violence (Russian Federation);

161.101 Step up its efforts against caste-based violence, discrimination and prejudice, including by eradicating all forms of caste-based discrimination in the educational system (Czechia);

161.102 Prohibit forced sterilization in line with requests by the Special Rapporteurs on torture, violence against women, and the right to health, and in line with the National Population Policy (Iceland);

161.103 Take concrete steps to prevent coercive, unsafe and abusive sterilization and create greater accountability for these practices, including

ensuring free and full consent prior to conducting the procedure and compliance with international standards (Sweden);

161.104 Abolish the death penalty (Mozambique);

161.105 Consider the abolition of the death penalty (Greece);

161.106 Consider imposing a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Namibia);

161.107 Consider imposing a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its total abolition (Rwanda);

161.108 Establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);

161.109 Introduce an official moratorium on the death penalty (Lithuania);

161.110 Establish a de jure moratorium on capital executions and commute the existing death sentences with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy);

161.111 Consider establishing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolishment (Spain);

161.112 Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

161.113 Consider the establishment of a moratorium on executions during the process of consideration by the Government of the recommendations of the Law Commission of India on the issue of the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);

161.114 Consider establishing a moratorium on the death penalty (Timor-Leste);

161.115 Introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (France);

161.116 Improve prison conditions in order to assure the rights and dignity of all those deprived of their liberty (Zambia);

161.117 Continue with relevant consultations and adopt a law on combating trafficking in persons (Belarus);

161.118 Continue the consultation process with all concerned parties to elaborate a new draft of the law against trafficking in persons (Cuba);

161.119 Continue and redouble its efforts to combat trafficking in persons and modern slavery, including through better law enforcement to end impunity for human traffickers and through initiatives aimed at destigmatizing and rehabilitating victims of trafficking (Liechtenstein);

161.120 Continue to implement measures to stop the flow of trafficking in persons (Holy See);

161.121 Strengthen the national mechanisms to combat human trafficking and support victims and their rehabilitation (Lebanon);

161.122 Accelerate efforts towards combating human trafficking, particularly by protecting and rehabilitating victims (Philippines);

161.123 Continue combating human trafficking (Senegal);

161.124 Continue efforts to improve social services that provide support to victims of human trafficking, forced labour and those who have been sexually exploited (Maldives);

161.125 **Continue improving the national legislative framework on the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking (Ukraine);**

161.126 **Strengthen efforts to guarantee freedom of religion and belief, especially by retracting so-called anti-conversion laws (Holy See);**

161.127 **Take all necessary measures to protect the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, and repeal laws which restrict religious conversion (Netherlands);**

161.128 **Abolish anti-conversion laws and grant access to justice to victims of religious violence and discrimination (Italy);**

161.129 **Repeal the requisite legislation to stop violence and discrimination against religious minorities (Kenya);**

161.130 **Take visible policy and other measures to ensure the freedom of religion and belief and address the alarming trend of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance including mob violence committed, incited and advocated by right-wing parties and affiliated extremist organizations against minorities, particularly Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Dalits (Pakistan);**

161.131 **Ensure that any measure limiting freedom of expression, assembly and association on the Internet is based on clearly defined criteria in accordance with international law including international human rights law (Sweden);**

161.132 **Continue to develop laws and make efforts to ensure freedom of religion and belief (Lebanon);**

161.133 **Guarantee freedom of religion or belief by implementing existing laws to better protect individuals belonging to minority groups from hate speech, incitement to religious violence, discrimination on religious grounds and forcible conversions (Canada);**

161.134 **Enact a law for the protection of human rights defenders (Lithuania);**

161.135 **Amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act to ensure the right to freedom of association, which includes the ability of civil society organizations to access foreign funding, and protect human rights defenders effectively against harassment and intimidation (Germany);**

161.136 **Revise the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act to ensure benign working conditions for civil society in India (Norway);**

161.137 **Improve the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act so that it could fund a broader scope of non-governmental organizations (Republic of Korea);**

161.138 **Ensure consistent, transparent application of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act regulations to permit full exercise of the right to freedom of association (United States of America);**

161.139 **Review and amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, which may restrict the access of NGOs to foreign financial assistance and lead to their arbitrary shut-down (Czechia);**

161.140 **Lift legal restrictions or hurdles to the work of civil society individuals or organizations and ensure that they can undertake their legitimate activities without fear of reprisals (Switzerland);**

161.141 **Carry out independent investigations in all cases of attacks against journalists (Lithuania);**

161.142 **Put an end to all curbs on freedom of expression and association (Pakistan);**

161.143 **Guarantee freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for all individuals and promote meaningful dialogue that embraces and allows freely organized advocacy of diverging views by civil society (Canada);**

161.144 **Continue its efforts to protect religious freedom and the rights of minority groups based on its Constitution and other relevant laws (Republic of Korea);**

161.145 **Bring all legislation concerning communication surveillance in line with international human rights standards and especially recommend that all communication surveillance requires a test of necessity and proportionality (Liechtenstein);**

161.146 **Take the necessary steps to ensure that all operations of intelligence agencies are monitored by an independent oversight mechanism (Liechtenstein);**

161.147 **Continue efforts to reduce corruption and increase accountability (Sudan);**

161.148 **Strengthen the independent functioning of the judiciary in order to reduce delays in judicial proceedings, enhance transparency of the processes and guarantee the right to speedy trial (Estonia);**

161.149 **Allocate appropriate resources to reducing backlog and delays in the administration of cases in courts (Ethiopia);**

161.150 **Promote and facilitate universal access to birth registration, especially for people living in extreme poverty, belonging to religious minorities or living in remote areas of the country, through the implementation of mobile units and carrying out awareness-raising campaigns (Mexico);**

161.151 **Ensure children's rights to acquire a nationality in accordance with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, regardless of the parents' legal status or ethnicity (Slovakia);**

161.152 **Remove barriers prohibiting scheduled castes and schedule tribes from registering their children's births and obtaining birth certificates (Bahrain);**

161.153 **Continue strengthening efforts aimed at promoting food security and eradicate all forms of malnutrition, in particular among children under the age of 5 (Libya);**

161.154 **Continue its programmes for the promotion of socioeconomic development, with a particular focus on the country's rights-based approach to food security targeting the most vulnerable groups (Sri Lanka);**

161.155 **Implement a human rights-based, holistic approach to ensure access to adequate housing as well as to adequate water and sanitation, including for marginalized groups, Dalits, scheduled castes, the homeless, the landless, scheduled tribes, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and women (Germany);**

161.156 **Expand the Housing for All scheme to realize the right to adequate housing for vulnerable people and eliminate homelessness by 2030 (South Africa);**

161.157 **Continue the Housing for All policy led by the Government to eradicate by 2030 the problem of homelessness, in conformity with Sustainable Development Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda (Algeria);**

161.158 **Ensure the systematic functioning of all mechanisms for the delivery of financial and other forms of assistance to those in need which have been established within the framework of the National Social Assistance Programme (Russian Federation);**

161.159 **Ensure that the implementation of a set of socioeconomic policies, such as the Stand-Up India scheme, is targeted, accountable and transparent, so that their benefits reach all sections of society (Singapore);**

161.160 **Continue efforts and measures aimed at enhancing social security and labour policies, and expand the development model in rural areas (Egypt);**

161.161 **Continue studying the possibility of a universal basic income as a way to further reduce poverty levels with a view to possibly phasing out the existing social protection system, in full consultation with all stakeholders (Haiti);**

161.162 **Continuously improve its endeavours to eradicate poverty in the country (Indonesia);**

161.163 **Continue its efforts towards socioeconomic development and poverty eradication (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

161.164 **Further strengthen its efforts towards socioeconomic development and poverty eradication (Myanmar);**

161.165 **Continue efforts to realize social and economic development and eradicate poverty (Saudi Arabia);**

161.166 **Continue efforts to reduce poverty, improve the well-being of the people, protect and enforce the rights of vulnerable groups of the population (Uzbekistan);**

161.167 **Continue its efforts to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty (Yemen);**

161.168 **Continue its fight against poverty, lack of adequate food, safe water and sanitation, while paying special attention to the need to introduce a child rights-based approach in all policies (Bulgaria);**

161.169 **Continue national efforts to realize social and economic development and eradicate poverty, and achieve comprehensive sustainable development for all (Egypt);**

161.170 **Continue to increase access to safe and sustainable drinking water in rural areas and to improve sanitation coverage, especially for women and girls (Singapore);**

161.171 **Carry on its efforts and action in the promotion of social security and labour policy (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

161.172 **Implement further actions in promoting social and work security, as well as efforts to spread the country's growth model in rural areas (Uzbekistan);**

161.173 **Continue promoting sustainable economic and social development and raising the living standard of its people so as to lay down a firm basis for the enjoyment of human rights by its people (China);**

161.174 **Accelerate the process of consolidating existing labour laws to, inter alia, promote the right to equal opportunities for work and at work, as well as to achieve occupational safety (Zimbabwe);**

161.175 **Increase public spending on the health sector in accordance with the 2017 National Health Policy and take further steps to strengthen health facilities (Kazakhstan);**

161.176 **Continue to provide access to health services for the elderly under the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (Colombia);**

161.177 **Take steps towards improving access to health, especially access to maternal health and to adequate obstetric delivery services so as to reduce maternal and child mortality (Zimbabwe);**

161.178 **Continue its efforts to ensure that the universal health-care scheme covers disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities and persons living in remote rural areas, who still face obstacles in accessing basic health-care services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

161.179 **Continue furthering the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women by immediately putting an end to camp-based sterilization operations in accordance with the Supreme Court order of 14 September 2016, by ensuring all women access to counselling on and access to the full range of modern contraceptives in a voluntary, safe and quality manner, and by providing comprehensive sexuality education (Finland);**

161.180 **Redouble its efforts in maternal health, sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive contraceptive services (Colombia);**

161.181 **Increase the government expenditure in the field of education (Iraq);**

161.182 **Continue its efforts to ensure that all children have access to education at all levels and all categories (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

161.183 **Continue to take steps to provide inclusive and quality education for all (Myanmar);**

161.184 **Continue its efforts in implementing its comprehensive policies to ensure quality education for all children (Qatar);**

161.185 **Promote children's right to education, especially education on climate change adaptation and mitigation (Viet Nam);**

161.186 **Step up its efforts to carry out the second phase of its Education for All programmes to focus on providing affordable and quality secondary education in the country (Brunei Darussalam);**

161.187 **Increase investment in universal, mandatory and free education by giving priority to measures to eradicate discrimination and exclusion that affect girls, children with disabilities, Dalits and marginalized persons (Mexico);**

161.188 **Accept more efforts to increase girls' secondary education, including ensuring that schools are girl-friendly in all parameters (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.189 **Continue to ensure access to education for all, especially children of scheduled castes and tribes (Holy See);**

161.190 **Strengthen the integration of the gender perspective in the formulation and implementation of policies (Colombia);**

161.191 **Ensure implementation of the Gender Budgeting Scheme in all states and union territories (South Africa);**

161.192 **Continue incorporating the gender perspective in the design and implementation of policies, and guarantee that the development agenda pays equal attention to the concerns of women (Cuba);**

161.193 **Redouble efforts on ensuring gender equality and take measures to prevent gender discrimination (Timor-Leste);**

161.194 **Continue its efforts to ensure women's equal participation in the workforce and generate employment opportunities for women in rural areas (State of Palestine);**

161.195 **Take urgent measures to put an end to harmful traditional practices such as so-called "honour killings", selective abortion on the basis of the sex of the fetus, sati, devadasi, early and enforced marriage, bringing the perpetrators to justice and guaranteeing assistance for victims (Argentina);**

161.196 **Implement existing laws on all forms of violence and sexual violence against women and girls, including "honour" crimes, female feticide and female infanticide; expand the definition of rape and sexual assault to include marital rape; and end harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage (Canada);**

161.197 **Improve the enforcement of the legal provisions prohibiting harmful and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular child marriages, dowry-related murders and honour killings, and ensure that all women, without discrimination, have access to public services (Czechia);**

161.198 **Step up efforts for comprehensive protection of women and girls, in particular against sexual violence (Greece);**

161.199 **Combat violence against women through effective legislation and law enforcement measures (China);**

161.200 **Take more effective measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, as they continue to be subjected to widespread violence, discrimination and exploitation (Japan);**

161.201 **Take additional serious measures to eliminate violence against women and children, including sexual violence (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.202 **Continue and strengthen measures to prevent and repress offences and violence against women and girls, including through early childhood education, awareness-raising and enhancing effective mechanisms of reparation (Viet Nam);**

161.203 **Eliminate traditional harmful practices, such as the rising number of deaths due to dowry and burning of widows (Bahrain);**

161.204 **Continue its efforts to promote the empowerment of women and to combat violence against women, in line with the recommendations of the Verma Committee (Brazil);**

161.205 **Continue strengthening institutions to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, in particular sexual violence, and adopt specific measures to achieve gender equality in the labour market (Chile);**

161.206 **Increase the resources so that female survivors of violence and domestic abuse can denounce the crimes with guarantees they will be not repeated (Spain);**

161.207 **Punish domestic violence, as well as promote awareness-raising campaigns on gender violence, including "honour" crimes (Spain);**

161.208 **Reinforce the legal framework for the prevention of violence against women, including running a national awareness campaign and ensuring comprehensive investigation and prosecution in cases of domestic violence (Italy);**

161.209 **Adopt a comprehensive law to combat all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape (Honduras);**

161.210 **Strengthen the protection of women's rights in accordance with the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and other relevant laws (Republic of Korea);**

161.211 **Ensure effective implementation of the law on the protection of women against domestic violence (Gabon);**

161.212 **Further the implementation of relevant laws and policies as well as training for public officials, to tackle sexual offences and unfair treatment to women (Thailand);**

161.213 **Redouble its efforts to enforce its legal provisions prohibiting harmful and discriminatory practices that violate the rights of women and girls (Liechtenstein);**

161.214 **Strengthen legislation to combat sexual offences against children and women (Timor-Leste);**

161.215 **Enhance activities aimed at eliminating discrimination against women, which particularly affects women from lower castes (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.216 **Implement the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act to increase the protection of children from sexual abuse (Kenya);**

161.217 **Ensure that legislation defining the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 is enforced at all levels, everywhere in the country (Iceland);**

161.218 **Step up its efforts to eradicate child marriage and so-called "honour crimes" (Israel);**

161.219 **Step up efforts to combat and eliminate child, early and forced marriages (Sierra Leone);**

161.220 **Adopt legislative measures and policies to prevent early or forced marriages (Honduras);**

161.221 **Continue and intensify the actions to prohibit child marriage (Gabon);**

161.222 **Strengthen the adoption of socioeconomic programmes which promote the empowerment of women and their participation in public and political life (Angola);**

161.223 **Enact the Women's Reservation Bill providing for the reservation of seats for women in the parliament and legislative assemblies, in order to enhance the political participation of women (Netherlands);**

161.224 **Adopt the law on quotas which aims to reserve at least 33 per cent of seats in legislative bodies of the central and state governments for women (Senegal);**

161.225 **Adopt the law on quotas which aims to reserve seats for women in legislative bodies of the central and state governments (Algeria);**

161.226 **Accelerate work on the protection of the rights of children and women in particular (Turkey);**

161.227 **Prohibit child labour in family enterprises and extend the list of dangerous activities in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Spain);**

161.228 **Consider repealing the provision that allows children to work in family-based occupations (Slovakia);**

161.229 **Continue strengthening national strategies to combat child labour (Brazil);**

161.230 **Continue to take all necessary measures to enhance the effectiveness of the protection of children, in particular in cases of sexual violence against children (Portugal);**

161.231 **Continue strengthening institutions to protect children and adolescent girls and boys, with a view to eradicating child labour, sexual exploitation and the practice of child marriage (Chile);**

161.232 **Develop specific guidelines for protection and support for victims of child sexual abuse and their families undergoing trial (Slovakia);**

161.233 **Introduce legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children in the home and in all other settings, including as a sentence under traditional forms of justice (Liechtenstein);**

161.234 **Introduce comprehensive and continuous public education, awareness-raising and social mobilization programmes on the harmful effects of corporal punishment (Liechtenstein);**

161.235 **Establish a database of all cases of violence against children and explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children under 18 years of age in all settings (Zambia);**

161.236 **Increase efforts to improve the rights of the child, notably through the effective application of the prohibition of child labour, as well as the rights of women (France);**

161.237 **Establish a monitoring mechanism to oversee the effective implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, the National Child Labour Policy and the Accessible India Campaign to prevent exploitation of children and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Thailand);**

161.238 **Take all appropriate measures in the implementation of the 2015 Juvenile Justice Act to give children aged 18 years and below an opportunity for rehabilitation (Botswana);**

161.239 **Continue efforts to promote opportunities for persons with disabilities to benefit from development gains (Libya);**

161.240 **Continue efforts aimed at improving the access of persons with disabilities to education, vocational training and health care (Oman);**

161.241 **Expand the integration of persons with disabilities into programmes and plans for sustainable development (Qatar);**

161.242 **Take holistic measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups (China);**

161.243 **Continue policies aimed at ensuring the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities and access to resources and services under the Accessible India Campaign (Colombia);**

161.244 **Ensure that girls with disabilities are afforded the same right to education as all children (Australia);**

161.245 **Continue strengthening the policies in favour of the rights of peasants and other persons working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

161.246 **Continue the endeavour to facilitate the access of elderly persons to preventive services and necessary treatment (Oman);**

161.247 **Immediately stop its atrocities and violations of human rights against the Kashmiri people, and allow them to exercise their right to self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolution (Pakistan);**

161.248 **Repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and the Public Safety Act and take credible actions to end the prevailing culture of impunity in "Indian-Occupied Kashmir" (Pakistan);**

161.249 **Immediately ban the use of pellet guns and hold accountable perpetrators who have used lethal force against unarmed civilians in "Indian-Occupied Kashmir" (Pakistan);**

161.250 **Provide unhindered access to the United Nations and other international organizations, and accede to the call of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to allow an OHCHR fact-finding mission to "Indian-**

**Occupied Kashmir" to investigate and report on the human rights situation there (Pakistan).**

162. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of India was headed by the Attorney General, Mukul Rohatgi, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of India;
- H.E. Mr. Rajiv K. Chander, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India;
- Mr. P. S. Patwalia, Additional Solicitor General of India;
- Dr. Virander K. Paul, Deputy Permanent Representative of India;
- Prof. Ranbir Singh, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi;
- Mr. Manish Chauhan, Joint Secretary (UNES), Ministry of External Affairs;
- Ms. Uma Sekhar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs;
- Ms. Bina Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Mr. Chetan B. Sanghi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development;
- Mr. Vikram Singh Gaur, Joint Secretary, NITI Aayog;
- Mr. K. C. Samria, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs;
- Mr. Alok Ranjan Jha, Counsellor (Political), Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Dr. A. Sudhakara Reddy, Counsellor (Legal), Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations office in Geneva;
- Mr. Priya Ranjan, Director, Ministry of Rural Development;
- Mr. Khagesh Garg, Director, Ministry of Social and Justice Empowerment;
- Dr. Yumnam Arun Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs;
- Ms. Nabanita Chakrabarti, Under Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs of India;
- Ms. Ridhi Sahni, Consultant in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India;
- Mr. C. G. Naidu, Office of Attorney General of India.